



NEWS RELEASE

United States Senate Committee on Small Business *Olympia J. Snowe, Chair*

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For Immediate Release
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Snowe Applauds Funding for Small Manufacturers

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME), Co-Chair of the Senate Task Force on Manufacturing, today applauded the Senate Appropriations Committee for approving \$106 million in funding for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a successful federal, state and private partnership designed to help small manufacturers. Senator Snowe is Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

"This is good news for manufacturers in Maine and across the country that depend on the Manufacturing Extension Partnership to create jobs, remain competitive in global markets and develop plans for future growth," said Senator Snowe. "Manufacturers assisted by the MEP produce high quality jobs and generate revenues that contribute to a rising standard of living. This program is more critical than ever to help stimulate growth in the economy."

Last April, in an effort led by the Senate Task Force on Manufacturing, 62 Senators signed a letter to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science in support of funding for the MEP.

Senator Snowe noted that manufacturing produces 13% of Gross Domestic Product and 89% of export revenue. Manufacturing firms also account for \$3.8 trillion per year in receipts and pay their workers 22% more than other small businesses.

As Co-Chair of the Senate Task Force on Manufacturing, Senator Snowe has co-led numerous bipartisan initiatives to increase funding for the MEP. In the last four years, MEP projects have resulted in \$1.9 billion of cost savings, \$8.7 billion of sales, and more than 104,000 manufacturing jobs.

The MEP is one of the few programs that provides tangible assistance to American manufacturers across the nation, helping them retain and create jobs. The MEP works directly with businesses to streamline operations, integrate new technologies, shorten production times, and lower costs.

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